

Minutes

Meeting of Arlington Public Art Committee

Thursday, August 21, 2014

Arlington Town Hall, Conference Room 1

Present: Rose Austin, Jill Manca, Adria Arch (Chair), Gail McCormick, Jane Howard, Carol Cunningham, Julie Brazile, Susan Frey, Dave Ardito, Bill Turville, Amy Mongeau (ACAC Liason)

- July meeting minutes: Minutes were reviewed and approved.
- Town Day, September 13: Adria Arch reported that APA has reserved a table at Art on the Green. The Committee made plans for staffing the table. In addition, APA will have a small display at the Vision 2020 Town Day table staffed all day by Gail McCormick who can answer questions about APA at that additional table.
- Proposals for Grants from the Arlington Cultural Council are due October 15 Adria Arch reported that the Arlington Parks and Recreation Department has agreed to put in a proposal for a stipend for a Curator for an Art Rocks Menotomy show in spring of 2015. Adria reported that she expects she would be the Curator and receive the stipend. This proposal will be further discussed in connection with the further discussion of future plans for 2015 (see Action item 1 below).
 - Plans for 2014-2015: Adria Arch handed out a proposal entitled *Arlington Dreamin'* which detailed plans her thoughts for the future of APA.
 - The committee discussed whether we can successfully staff a repeat/continuation of the three projects from 2013-14: Transformer Box Project, Chairful Where You Sit and Art Rocks Menotomy
 - Jill Manca volunteered tentatively to continue leading the Transformer Box Project.
 - Carol Cunningham volunteered tentatively to lead the Chairful project in the spring of 2015.

Some on the committee questioned whether we have or should spend the budget on these projects and whether the proposed stipends to committee members were appropriate. It was noted that we could consider doing these projects in alternate years.

Action Item 1: Adria Arch agreed to prepare a more detailed budget, including any proposals for stipends, for consideration at the next meeting at which we could take a vote.

- Adria Arch reported that she wishes to step down as sole chair of APA but would be willing to be a co-chair and would like to curate Art Rocks Menotomy. The Committee deferred discussion of this question and gave Adria a round of applause for 2013-14.

- Public Art Fund Discussion: Adria Arch handed out an excel spreadsheet from the Town Manager's Office reflecting the Public Art Fund account. The committee reviewed Susan Frey's report on the meeting with the Town Manager who has asked the APA to develop plans for one year, five years and ten years.
- Future Plans Discussion: The committee discussed two approaches (not mutually exclusive, but difficult to balance) to enhancing public art in Arlington:
 - A. Projects managed at the APA committee level to enhance public art (such as Transformer Boxes, Chairful Where You Sit and Art Rocks Menotomy); and
 - B. Collaboration by APA with other committees and agencies in Town to promote public art. (One member referred to "getting out of our small pool")
 - Rose Austin presented a copy of the Public Art Plan of Arlington County, Virginia as just one example of a visionary statement that can be an effective guide.
 - The Mass Ave Corridor was raised as an example of a bigger project needing APA input for the public art cites and needing a sustained and timely effort to raise funds and interact with the public.
 - Adria Arch, as a member of the Arlington Culture and Arts Commission (ACAC) reported that the ACAC has discussed (in collaboration with Arlington Tourism and Economic Development, ATED, applying to the commonwealth for designation of a district in Arlington as a "cultural district."
 - The committee brainstormed a preliminary list of vision items for the future. (See Action item, below.)
 - It was suggested that we poll both the town (in the upcoming survey) and the mailing list of APA for input on public art goals for Arlington. (See Action item, below.)

Action items: Susan Frey will compile the committee's brainstorming list for the committee's next meeting. Rose Austin will prepare proposed survey questions on public art goals.

- Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Frey